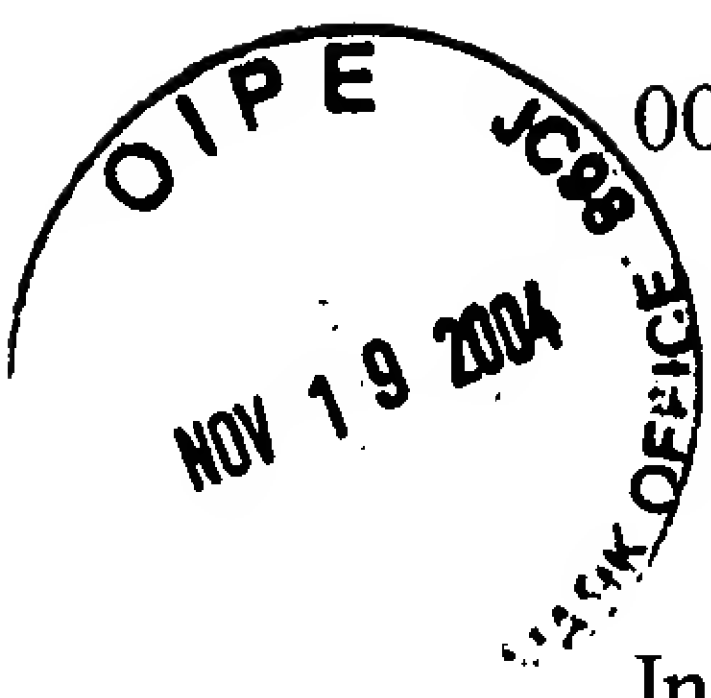


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00684.002745

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Naoto SANO et al.	: Examiner: P. Nguyen
)
Application No.: 09/163,402	: Group Art Unit: 2828
)
Filed: September 30, 1998	: Confirmation No.: 9937
)
For: GAS LASER DEVICE AND EXPOSURE	: Allowed: November 5, 2004
APPARATUS USING THE SAME	: November 22, 2004

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

LETTER REQUESTING CONSIDERATION
OF PAPERS TIMELY FILED

Sir:

Applicants have received a Notice of Allowance and a Notice of Allowability dated November 5, 2004, in the above-identified application. Applicants, however, filed an Information Disclosure Statement, along with a Request for Continued Examination and a Preliminary Amendment, on October 6, 2004, prior to issuance of the Notice of Allowance on November 5, 2004. Applicants received, attached to the Notice of Allowability, a partially initialed PTO-1449 Form in which the Examiner has indicated his consideration of the Japanese patent documents and Japanese Office Actions submitted in that Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Examiner has not yet indicated his consideration of the two U.S. patents submitted with that Information Disclosure Statement and cited on the

and cited on the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner indicate consideration of the two U.S. patents submitted in that Information Disclosure Statement, by initialing and returning a copy of the PTO-1449 form attached to that paper. Attached, for the Examiner's convenience, are copies of the Information Disclosure Statement, the PTO-1449 form, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office date stamped postcard receipt indicating the filing of those papers on that date.

Applicants believe that no fees should be incurred in connection with filing this paper. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fees be associated herewith. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for this purpose.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date 10 / 06 / 2004
Mo. Day Yr.

Atty. Docket 00684.002745
Appln. No. 09/163,402

Sir:

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the accompanying:

- ☐ Specifications, claims and abstract _____ pages, with Transmittal Form
- ☐ Patent Application Bibliographic Data Sheet _____ sheets
- ☐ Executed Oath or Declaration and Power of Attorney
- ☐ _____ Sheets of _____ formal _____ informal drawings
- ☐ Check for \$ _____ (filing fee)
- ☒ Request for Continued Examination and Check for \$ 790.
- ☐ Assignment, PTO-1595 and Check for \$ _____
- ☐ Transmittal Under 37 CFR 1.53(d) (CPA)
- ☐ Petition under 37 CFR 1.136 and check for \$ _____
- ☒ Other (specify) Preliminary Amendment and Transmittal sheet and Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 w/19 docs

by placing your receiving date stamp hereon and mailing or returning to deliverer.

This is a ☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-In-Part

Atty. SEW/SSC/dlc

Due Date 10 / 06 / 2004
Mo. Day Yr.

37 CFR 1.8 ☐

37 CFR 1.10 ☐

By Hand ☒

FOHS-A-00

